A Special Letter to Industrial Workers —Employed and Unemployed

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This letter is written especially to you who work in the mines, mills and factories of our country. Or who have been laid off. We want you to join our Party, the Communist Party, U.S.A. Our Party is on the move. We are in the thick of the national campaign to block the Reagan Administration's reactionary budget. We are battling to defeat the brazen corporate conspiracy to steal the hard won gains made by working people over many years of struggle.

Reagan would convert them into more profits for the corporations or divert them into a bottomless pit at the Pentagon. We staunchly oppose the monstrous anti-union campaign, take-away contracts, combining jobs, contracting out—all designed to cut jobs and wages.

We need you in this fight. We need your working class ideas. Your militancy and courageous commitment. We don't have to convince you there is something radically wrong in our country. You know as well as anyone that our living standards are on a down-hill skid.

Real spendable wages are *down!* Jobs are *down!* Union membership is *down!* Many factories and mills are permanently *down!* Many schools, hospitals, day care centers and libraries are *down!* But the cost of living keeps going *up!* Led by the rapacious oil hogs, bloated profits keep going *up!* The military budget keeps going way *up!*

We Communists don't lay claim to all the answers. But we do

have some very definite ideas about how to deal with such problems that come out of many years of experience. For over sixty years, the Communist Party, U.S.A. has been in continuous struggle. Actively helping to organize trade unions, helping to organize movements for peoples' rights, for social justice, and against the poison of racism, which is used to divide our ranks.

Organization is the strongest weapon workers have at their command. Yet the trade unions, representing the organized might of the working class, are on the defensive, divided and in retreat—with but a few outstanding exceptions.

Now is the time for organized labor to go onto the offensive. To give leadership to the growing opposition to the anti-labor, racist, anti-peoples' attack by Big Business—led by the Reagan Administration.

That means a mass campaign to organize the unorganized, to organize the unemployed. It means such things as organizing a mass march on Washington for jobs and peace. Mass delegations to Congress; mass demonstrations and pressure on state capitals and City Hall. The two day strike and the 10,000 strong White House picket line by the United Mine Workers in defense of Black Lung legislation is a shining example of militant initiative for all labor to emulate.

The time has come to end the cozy relations between top union officials and anti-labor corporation executives who meet in secret to work out deals behind the backs of the rank and file. Let's junk the "tripartite committees" of management, government and labor that are always loaded two to one against the workers. The welfare of the membership must always be the unshakeable cornerstone of basic trade union policy.

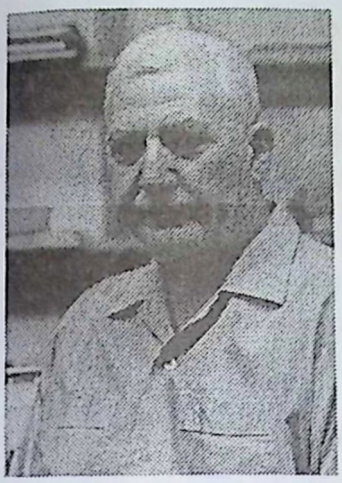
The organized might of the trade union movement, working with the Movement for Black Liberation, the movement of Chicano, Puerto Rican and other racially oppressed workers, the women's movement for equal pay and full equality, young people, the peace movement and many other democratic forces, can turn this country around in a hurry. We did it before and we can do it again.

The demand for a shorter work week with no cut in pay and an end to forced overtime can be won! And that's what it is going to take to end mass unemployment. We can force a roll back in food and fuel prices, rents, interest rates and the cost of other necessities. We can shift the main burden of taxes onto the millionaires and the corporations, based on the democratic principle of "ability to pay." We can win a national health act that was first proposed by the old C.I.O. in 1945.

Let's put an end to runaway shops and arbitrary plant closings. Communists support the demand for a Federal agency with the authority to guarantee operation, including conversion if necessary, of manufacturing facilities threatened with shut down. This includes the power to take them over and run them under democratic controls, including full union recognition.

A united trade union movement with a fighting program can smash the anti-labor corporate offensive led by the Committee for a Union Free Environment. It can defeat Taft-Hartley and win back the unfettered right to strike. It can bury Landrum-Griffin and other anti-labor laws.

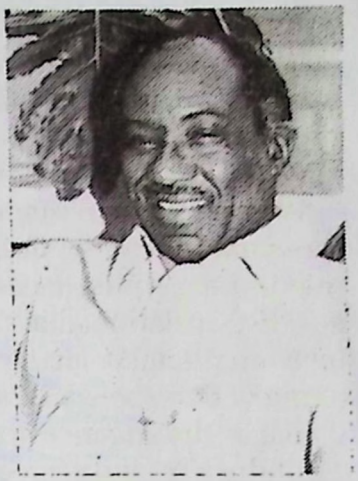
These dangerous times demand maximum unity in the ranks of the working class. This



George Meyers

George Meyers is Chairperson of the National Labor and Farm Department of the Communist Party, U.S.A. He comes from a coal mining family in western Maryland. Meyers served as president of the 9,000-member Local 1874 of the CIO Textile Workers Union as well as president of the Maryland-D.C. CIO Council. He served in the Air Force during World War II. Meyers is now a member of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the CPUSA.

Roscoe Proctor is Secretary of the National Labor and Farm Department of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Born in Texas, he became a member of the San Pedro, California Local 13 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. In 1947 he moved to Oakland where he became Political Action director of ILWU Local 6. Proctor is now a member of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the CPUSA.



Roscoe Proctor

means increasing the fight against racism. Racism among workers is the equivalent of scabbing. Outlaw such anti-labor, racist and anti-Semitic outfits as the K.K.K. and the Nazis. Organizations advocating racial and religious hatred have no place in our country. Historically they have been a base for scab-herders and strike breakers.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is endangered by Reagan's budget cuts and administrative subversion. A fight must be made to guarantee the renewal of the 1965 voting rights act. Tremendous population shifts have created new dangers to Black and labor representation in Congress, State Legislatures, and City Councils. Unemployment remains at disastrous levels for Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, Latin and other racially oppressed workers.

We need affirmative action programs with concrete quotas to help guarantee full equality for the racially oppressed and for women workers of all races. Big Business must be made to pay the penalty for past wrongs directed against minority workers and women, especially "last hired, first fired."

The Communist Party, U.S.A. is not alone in demanding that the Reagan Administration respond positively to the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union. The U.S. must sit down with the U.S.S.R. and work out agreements to end the threat of a suicidal nuclear war. We say with religious leaders and the leaders of many democratic movements, "End the arms race and cut the military budget."

With organized labor giving the lead, the many movements now growing can begin to lay a grass roots foundation for anti-corporate political formations. These can rapidly escalate into the organization of a real alternative to the two party system of Big Business, which has disgusted workers to the point that many refuse to even bother to vote.

Of course there is more to joining the Communist Party, U.S.A. than the everyday struggle for a decent living. Bitter experience has proven that progress won in long hard struggle can be wiped out overnight by the big corporations in partnership with an acquiescent government. What the Reagan Administration, most of Congress and the corporations are doing today is a classic example. Life itself is making it very clear, that as long as the capitalist class makes the rules of the game, they are going to win in the end. More and more

workers are coming to the conclusion that it is time for the working class to set their own rules as the way to guarantee permanent progress. That means the working class must take over the mines, mills, factories and transportation facilities of our country and run them for the benefit of all, not for the profit of a few. That is the meaning of Socialism. That is the ringing slogan of the Communist Party, U.S.A. "POWER TO THE WORKING CLASS."

We are living in tremendous times. New technology, automation, computerized robots, the remarkable advances of science, are beyond the ability of capitalism, interested only in maximum profits, to control in a rational way. That's the reason we have one recession after another, inflation, mass unemployment. The only permanent solution to the problems we face is a planned society under the controls of those who produce—the working class. The name of that society is Socialism.

Just as the advance of science doomed Feudalism and replaced it with capitalism, now capitalism is being forced to give way to socialism. This is the explanation for the vast changes taking place in all parts of the world. It is the most progressive advance ever made by mankind. And it is being led by the working class of all countries—our class!

When you join the Communist Party, U.S.A., you become an intimate participant in this tremendous, historic development. It will give a new, fuller meaning to your life.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO SOCIALISM!

Fraternally yours,

George Meyers Roscoe Proctor

PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS

Be a Better Fighter For:

Peace Not War! / Equality Not Racism! / Jobs Not Unemployment!

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